

GP Bulletin – November 2018**Our Clinical Health Psychology Service**

The Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust (BTHFT) Clinical Health Psychology service has developed over 30 years to cover many physical health specialties including, cardiac, diabetes etc. They are based at St Luke's Hospital and the COPD service sees most patients there. They also offer Mindfulness for Health and Wellbeing courses and Compassion Focused Therapy groups to many patients with long term health conditions.

Anxiety and depression account for variance in the quality of life of COPD patients more than the severity of their condition. Research has indicated that 55% of COPD patients experience clinical levels of anxiety and at least 40% are clinically depressed. Therefore, it is vital that the emotional impact of the condition is considered and treated to improve the overall wellbeing of these patients. COPD patients for whom the psychological impact of their respiratory disease or related treatment is the main problem can be referred by any health professional for individual psychological therapy in our Clinical Health Psychology Service.

Psychological interventions are recommended by NICE guidelines which state for healthcare professionals to be alert to possible depression particularly in patients with a past history of depression or a chronic physical health problem with associated functional impairment. It's also worth considering asking patients who may have depression two questions, specifically:

- During the last month, have you often been bothered by feeling down, depressed or hopeless?
- During the last month, have you often been bothered by having little interest or pleasure in doing things?

Referrals can be made using our Clinical Health Psychology referral form via fax (01274 365177) or post to Clinical Health Psychology, St Luke's Hospital, Little Horton Lane, Bradford, BD5 0NA. Please do not hesitate to contact the department on 01274 365176 to discuss a potential referral or request a copy of our referral form. Dr Jaime Wood can also offer training to Bradford primary care practices who would like to know more about the emotional impact of COPD and how it can be addressed using psychological therapy.

Vague Symptoms Cancer Fast Track Team

We are pleased to announce that BTHFT's Vague Symptoms Service is ready to accept referrals.

The Vague Symptoms Multi-Disciplinary Team is a newly funded service at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, aimed at achieving earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved patient experience for patients where a malignancy is suspected but they do not meet the criteria of a site specific 2WW malignancy pathway.

Referrals to our service will replace the existing "suspected malignancy" referral form. Please refer to the attached pathway for details of referral criteria and suggested tests/ blood panels prior to you making a referral.

Referrals should be completed through the new Assist GP tool in S1 where you can also find a copy of the referral pathway as well as a host of support tools. Please see the You Tube links below for a quick run through:

Making a Vague Symptoms referral in Assist GP [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= X1YtbSbzQs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1YtbSbzQs)

Emailing the Vague Symptoms referral <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umLL4WDBTus>

This pathway replaces the Suspected Malignancy pathway but the team will still accept referrals on this form. Please note that eMBED have been asked to upload the new referral from to the SystemOne Referrals Repository as well.

Referrals should be emailed via your practice NHS Mail to the fast track office. The easiest and most secure way to do this is via the Assist GP tool (see the video link above).

The BTHFT Vague Symptoms Suspected Cancer team are planning to visit you at your practices to discuss the service in more detail and answer any questions you might have. Please contact the VS Care Co-ordinator by email: ceri.gallucci@bthft.nhs.uk to arrange a visit. We are also contactable by email at vague.symptoms@bthft.nhs.uk or T: 01274 274734 M: 07773576137. These contact details are also available via Assist GP.

National award for our Ambulatory Care Experience (ACE) Team

A Bradford Teaching Hospital's innovative children and young person's service has scooped a top national award. The Children and Young Persons' Ambulatory Care Experience (ACE) project, based at Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI) aims to bring care to young patients in the comfort of their own home and prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital. At a ceremony in London, the project was crowned winner of the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Improvement in Emergency and Urgent Care Award. GPs can refer directly into the ACE team by calling 01274 273354 between 9am-9pm seven days a week.

[Read more...](#)

Joining forces nationally to reduce infections

Bradford Teaching Hospitals is one of only 30 NHS trusts in the country to be chosen to take part in the research funded by Quality Improvement in Surgical Teams (QIST). The project is part of the QIST collaborative which was established by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in 2013.

We're working with 30 organisations across the NHS to reduce infections such as MSSA, for patients having hip and knee replacement surgery. Patients admitted to hospital are already screened for MRSA, but not MSSA. Occasionally, such as after surgery, MRSA or MSSA can cause an infection.

Screening for MSSA before admission allows staff to identify if a patient is carrying the bacteria and provide them with treatment, which is simple and consists of a body wash and nasal gel. That's why our Orthopaedic Team wanted to take part in this research – to help reduce patients' risk of developing an infection because of MSSA.

These interventions have already been tested by Northumbria Healthcare which has adapted a MSSA “care bundle” or “checklist” to meet the needs of patients having joint replacement surgery.

Before-and-after data for the 9,000 patients cared for at the trust shows it is making a real difference and that over £1m was saved during the trial. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Peter Bobak explained: “Infections, especially deep ones following surgery, are nasty and need a lot of treatment, often intravenous antibiotics given in hospital for several weeks. That’s why this research is so exciting: it will hopefully lead to a reduction in the number of infections and improve the patient experience. We’ve seen the incidence of MRSA tumble over the years because of screening, so it would be great if the same can happen to MSSA.”